WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image correction method comprising the steps of:

previously setting at least one verbal expression representing a condition of an image or a direction of correction of the image, and at least one image correction condition corresponding to the verbal expression;

inputting the verbal expression as a correction instruction according to the image; and

correcting the image under the corresponding image correction condition according to the input verbal expression.

2. The image correction method according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of image correction conditions of different intensities are set with respect to the verbal expression, and a plurality of images corrected under the image correction conditions are reproduced according to the input verbal expression.

3. The image correction method according to claim 1, wherein a relationship between the verbal expression first input with respect to the image and correction of the image finally made is totalized, and the image correction

condition corresponding to the verbal expression is updated according to a result of totalization.

4. The image correction method according to claim 3, wherein image scenes of the images are sorted by using image characteristic values of the images and the totalization is performed for each of the image scenes sorted.

5. The image correction method according to claim 3, wherein, when the image is reproduced on a photographic print, the image is sorted according to at least one of printing method, type of printing paper, printer model, individual printer used, operator using the printer, and laboratory store concerned, before the relationship between the verbal expression first input and the correction of the image finally made is totalized for each sorting process so as to update the image correction condition corresponding to the verbal expression according to the result of the totalization.

6. The image correction method according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of image correction conditions having different image correcting algorithms are set with respect

to the verbal expression; image correction is performed by selecting one of the image correction conditions; a number of times each of the image correction conditions is selected is totalized; and a priority order of each of the plurality of image correction conditions is updated according to a result of totalization.

7. The image correction method according to claim 3, wherein a condition setting algorithm of image processing is updated according to the result of the totalization.

8. The image correction method according to claim 1, wherein density control according to a result of extraction of an essential portion is included as image processing, and recomputation of an amount of density control according to the result of extraction of the essential portion is included as an image correction according to the verbal expression.

9. The image correction method according to claim 1, wherein, in correction processing of the image, switching is performed between a verbal input mode for inputting the verbal expression and a numerical input mode to input the correction instruction.